

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 84-183 are pending in the application.

Claim 149 was objected to for depending on a cancelled claim.

Claims 84-90, 93-115, 118-140, 143-165 and 168-183 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura et al, U.S. Patent 5,737,029 ("Ohkura") in view of Knowles et al, U.S. Patent 6,505,348 ("Knowles"). Claims 91-92, 116-117, 141-142 and 166-167 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura in view of Knowles as applied to claims 90, 115, 140 and 165, and further in view of Hendricks et al, U.S. Patent 5,798,785.

Applicants have amended claims 84, 109, 134, 149 and 159. The claim amendments are supported in application as originally filed at, e.g., applicants' specification, p. 36, line 3 through p. 37, line 3. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. Reply to Objection of Claim 149

Claim 149 has been objected to because it depends on cancelled claim 39. Claim 149 has been amended to "The system of claim 147" so that it depends from a pending claim.

III. Reply to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants' independent claims 84, 109, 134 and 159 are directed towards an interactive media guide for accessing media provided by a plurality of different media sources. One or more media group options are provided indicating the media available to the user without

indicating the content, title, or source of the media. In response to the user selecting a media group option, a plurality of media indicators associated with the selected media group option are provided. The plurality of media indicators provided in response to the user selecting a media group option includes a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media. Unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user. An action associated with the media indicator is performed in response to a user selecting a media indicator from the plurality of media indicators provided.

As explained in the background portion of applicants' specification, a user of a modern media distribution system may, at any given point, have access to a large number of different types of media from different sources. Informing the user about "what's on now," (i.e., indicating all of the media accessible to the user at a given point in time) can overwhelm a user if not performed in a user-friendly way. Applicants' claims solve this problem by, among other things, advantageously grouping available media into media groups without indicating any of the content, title, or source. For example, media group options may include "Recent Favorites," "Old Favorites," "Recommendations," "Browsing," "Special Interest," "Categories," or "Preview Scan." Applicants' approach provides for a user-friendly, descriptive and organized guidance by grouping the large variety of media provided in modern media systems into more manageable categories. Moreover, applicants' approach patently improves upon the prior art at least by displaying media that are scheduled

by time and media without a scheduled time in response to a user indicating a desire to access one of the media groups. (Applicants' Specification, p. 36, line 3 through p. 37, line 3).

The Office Action contended that independent claims 84, 109, 134 and 159 are obvious over Ohkura in view of Knowles. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Ohkura is directed to a television reception controller that quickly and easily enables the viewer to choose a favorite program from among scheduled media programs. (Ohkura, Abstract). The October 5, 2005 Office Action acknowledges that Ohkura does not show or suggest applicants' feature of providing a plurality of media indicators that include a first media indicator for scheduled media programs and a second media indicator for unscheduled media programs. (See October 5, 2005 Office Action, page 3). The Office Action attempts to make up for this deficiency in Ohkura by pointing to Knowles for disclosing this feature.

Knowles is directed to a multiple interactive program guide ("IPG") system that provides programming of scheduled media data to several different television sets. The Knowles system enables the users to purchase current and future Pay-Per-View (PPV) programs. (Knowles, col. 5, lines 21-24). A comprehensive list of PPV program scheduled times and future purchases for all users may be displayed. (Knowles, col. 5, line 61 to col. 6, line 4). The Knowles system has the ability to resolve conflicts between PPV ordering because "the guide is required to tune to the PPV channel at the start of a purchased event, so the guide must be aware of any other scheduled events that

take place at the same time." (Knowles, col. 22, lines 51-59).

The Knowles system also includes the ability to incorporate a caller ID feature into the IPG through the Telephone Services menu (see, e.g., Knowles, col. 23, lines 33-47). The caller ID feature is "a pop-up that displays over a TV state or any guide screen, which identifies somebody calling as the phone is ringing" (Knowles, col. 22, lines 61-64). In addition, "[w]hen somebody calls the user on the telephone while the user is watching television, the IPG displays a caller ID pop-up" (Knowles, col. 23, lines 2-4).

Applicants submit that while applicants' claims may generally implicate the PPV and caller ID "pop-up" features of Knowles, applicants' approach patentably improves upon Knowles. Applicants' claims require that the plurality of media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media programs and a second media indicator for unscheduled media programs. To further highlight the patentable improvements of applicants' claims, the claims have been amended to reflect that the unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants' independent claims 84, 109, 134 and 159 are allowable.

IV. Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 85-108, 110-133, 135-158 and 160-183 are dependent from at least one of allowable independent claims 84, 109, 134 and 159 and are allowable

at least because independent claims 84, 109, 134 and 159 are allowable.

V. Conclusion

Accordingly, this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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